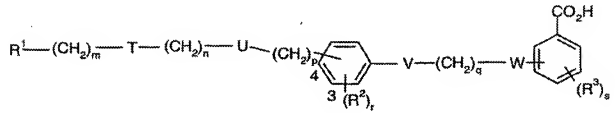
In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supersedes all previous lists of claims.

Please cancel claims 4, 5, and 12 without prejudice to their presentation in another application, and amend claims 1, 6-11, 13, and 14 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I



I

wherein

R^1 represents aryl optionally substituted by a heterocyclic group or a heterocyclic group optionally substituted by aryl wherein each aryl or heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more of the following groups:

a $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl group;

a $C_{1\text{-}6}$acyl group;

aryl$C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl, wherein the alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more R^b;

halogen,

-CN and NO_2,

$-NR^cCOOR^a$;

$-NR^cCOR^a$;

$-NR^cR^a$;

$-NR^cSO_2R^d$;

$-NR^cCONR^kR^c$;

$-NR^cCSNR^aR^k$;

$-OR^a$;

$-OSO_2R^d$;

$-SO_2R^d$;

$-SOR^d$;

$-SR^c$;

$-SO_2NR^aR^f$;

$-SO_2OR^a$;

$-CONR^cR^a$;

$-OCONR^fR^a$;

wherein R^a represents H, a C_{1-6}alkyl group, aryl or arylC_{1-6}alky group wherein the alkyl, aryl or arylC_{1-6}alkyl group is optionally substituted one or more times by R^b, wherein R^b represents C_{1-6}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, cyano, $-NR^cR^d$, =O, halo, -OH, -SH, $-OC_{1-4}$alkyl, -Oaryl, $-OC_{1-4}$alkylaryl, $-COR^c$, $-SR^d$, $-SOR^d$, or $-SO_2R^d$, wherein R^c represents H, C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^d represents C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkyl;

wherein R^f represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}acyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^a is as defined above; and

R^k represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-4}alkyl;

the group $-(CH_2)_m$-T-$(CH_2)_n$-U-$(CH_2)_p$- is attached at either the 3 or 4 position in the phenyl ring as indicated by the numbers in formula I and represents a group selected from one or more of the following: $O(CH_2)_2$, $O(CH_2)_3$, $NC(O)NR^4(CH_2)_2$, $CH_2S(O_2)NR^5(CH_2)_2$, $CH_2N(R^6)C(O)CH_2$, $(CH_2)_2N(R^6)C(O)(CH_2)_2$, $C(O)NR^7CH_2$, $C(O)NR^7(CH_2)_2$, and $CH_2N(R^6)C(O)CH_2O$;

V represents ~~O, S, NR^8, or a single bond~~;

q represents ~~1, 2 or 3~~;

W represents ~~O, S, $N(R^9)C(O)$, NR^{10}, or~~ a single bond;

R^2 represents halo, a C_{1-4}alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}acyl group, aryl, an arylC_{1-4}alkyl group, CN or NO_2;

r represents 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^3 represents represents halo, a C_{1-4}akyl group which is optionally substituted by one or

more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}acyl group, aryl, an arylC_{1-4}alkyl group, or CN;

s represents 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} independently represent H, a C_{1-10}alkyl group, aryl or an arylC_{1-4}alkyl group or when m is 0 and T represents a group $N(R^6)C(O)$ or a group $(R^5)NS(O_2)$ then R^1 and R^6 or R^1 and R^5 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent a heteroaryl group;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the ~~provisos~~ proviso that when

1) when R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from halo, a C_{1-4}alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a is C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro;

m is 1;

T is $N(R^6)C(O)$ wherein R^6 represents a C_{2-8}alkyl group which is optionally interrupted by oxygen;

n is 1;

U is absent or represents methylene;

p is 0;

r is 0;

V is O ~~or S~~;

q is 1; and

W is a single bond attached to the position ortho to the carboxylic acid group;

then s does not represent 0~~; and~~

~~2) when R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from halo, a C_{1-4}alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro;~~

~~m is 1;~~

~~T is $N(R^6)C(O)$ wherein R^6 represents an unbranched C_{2-7}alkyl group;~~

~~n is 1;~~

~~U is O;~~

~~p is 0;~~

~~r is 0 or 1;~~

~~and when r is 1 R^2 is attached at the 3 position and is OCH_3;~~

~~V is a single bond;~~

~~q is 2; and~~

~~W is O or S attached to the position ortho to the carboxylic acid group;~~

~~then s does not represent 0~~.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^1 represents phenyl which is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: halo, hydroxy, a C_{1-4}alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, benzyloxy, a C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyloxy group, phenyl or a heteroaryl group, or R^1 represents heteroaryl which is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: halo, a C_{1-4}alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group wbich is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro or phenyl optionally substituted by one or more of the following: halo, a C_{1-4}alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro.

3. (original) A compound according to any previous claim in which the group $-(CH_2)_m-T-(CH_2)_n-U-(CH_2)_p-$ is attached at the 4 position in the phenyl ring as indicated by the numbers in formula I, that is para to the group V.

4-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any previous~~ claim 1 in which the group $-V-(CH_2)_q-W-$ is joined at the ortho position with respect to the carboxylic acid group.

7. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any previous~~ claim 1 in which R^2 is halo, a C_{1-4}alkyl group or a C_{1-4}alkoxy group and r is 0 or 1.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any previous~~ claim 1 in which s is 0.

9. (currently amended) A compound selected from one or more of the following:

~~3-{[(3-{[(1,1'-biphenyl-4-ylcarbonyl)amino]methyl}phenyl)amino]methyl}benzoic acid;~~

2-{[4-(2-oxo-2-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}ethyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;

2-[(3-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-{[3-(2-oxo-2-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}ethyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl](methyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)-methyl]benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[({4-methyl-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,3-thiazol-5-yl}carbonyl)amino]-ethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-({4-[2-({[(2,4-difluorophenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenoxy}methyl)benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furoyl)amino]ethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]ethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-fluorophenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-methoxyphenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-({4-[3-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-3-oxopropyl]phenoxy)methyl)benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[4-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenoxy]ethyl}-phenoxymethyl]benzoic acid;

2-({4-{2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;

2-[(3-{2-[4-(benzyloxy)phenoxy]ethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-{[3-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;

2-({3-[2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)ethyl]phenoxy}methyl)benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{3-[4-(benzyloxy)phenoxy]propyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-{[4-(3-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}propyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;

2-({4-[3-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propyl]phenoxy}methyl)benzoic acid;

2-{[4-(3-{[2-(2-ethoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino}-3-oxopropyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{3-[ethyl(2-pyridin-2-ylethyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

~~2-{[2-(3-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl]thio}benzoic acid;~~

2-{[4-(2-{heptyl[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethyl] amino}-2-oxoethyl)phenoxy]methyl} benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl](heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[heptyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid; and

2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

~~2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}benzyl)oxy]benzoic acid;~~

~~2-[(4-{2-[heptyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}benzyl)oxy]benzoic acid;~~

~~2-{2-[4-(2-{isobutyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]ethoxy}-benzoic acid; and~~

~~2-[(4-{2-[[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl](heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}benzyl)oxy]benzoic acid~~

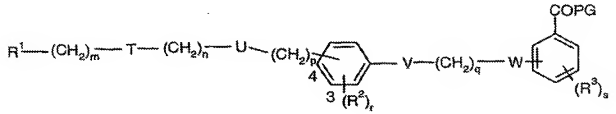
~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~ salt thereof.

10. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers~~ adjuvant, diluent, and/or carrier.

11. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 to a mammal in need thereof.

12. (canceled).

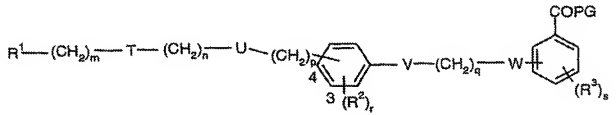
13. (currently amended) A process to prepare ~~compounds of formula I~~ a compound of formula I of claim 1 comprising reacting a compound of formula II



II

in which R^1, T, U, V, W, R^2, R^3, m, n, p, q, r and s are as previously defined in claim 1 and PG represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group with a de-protecting agent.

14. (currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of formula II ~~as described in claim 13.~~



II

wherein:

R^1 represents aryl optionally substituted by a heterocyclic group or a heterocyclic group optionally substituted by aryl wherein each aryl or heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more of the following groups:

a C_{1-6}alkyl group;

a C_{1-6}acyl group;

arylC_{1-6}alkyl, wherein the alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more R^b;

halogen,

-CN and NO_2,

$-NR^cCOOR^a$;

$-NR^cCOR^a$;

$-NR^cR^a$;

$-NR^cSO_2R^d$;

$-NR^cCONR^kR^c$;

$-NR^cCSNR^aR^k$;

$-OR^a$;

$-OSO_2R^d$;

$-SO_2R^d$;

$-SOR^d$;

$-SR^c$;

$-SO_2NR^aR^f$;

$-SO_2OR^a$;

$-CONR^cR^a$;

$-OCONR^fR^a$;

wherein R^a represents H, a C_{1-6}alkyl group, aryl or arylC_{1-6}alky group wherein the alkyl, aryl or ary1C_{1-6}alkyl group is optionally substituted one or more times by R^b, wherein R^b represents C_{1-6}alky1, aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, cyano, $-NR^cR^d$, =O, halo, -OH, -SH, $-OC_{1-4}$alkyl, -Oaryl, $-OC_{1-4}$alkylaryl, $-COR^c$, $-SR^d$, $-SOR^d$, or $-SO_2R^d$, wherein R^c represents H, C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^d represents C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkyl;

wherein R^f represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}acyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^a is as defined above; and

R^k represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-4}alky1;

the group $-(CH_2)_{n}$-T-$(CH_2)_{n}$-U-$(CH_2)_{n}$- is attached at either the 3 or 4 position in the phenyl ring as indicated by the numbers in formula I and represents a group selected from one or more of the following: $O(CH_2)_2$, $O(CH_2)_3$, $NC(O)NR^4(CH_2)_2$, $CH_2S(O_2)NR^5(CH_2)_2$, $CH_2N(R^6)C(O)CH_2$, $(CH_2)_2N(R^6)C(O)(CH_2)_2$, $C(O)NR^7CH_2$, $C(O)NR^7(CH_2)_2$, and $CH_2N(R^6)C(O)CH_2O$;

V represents O;

q represents 1;

W represents a single bond;

R^2 represents halo, a C_{1-4}alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}acyl group, aryl, an arylC_{1-4}alkyl group, CN or NO_2;

r represents 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^3 represents represents halo, a C_{1-4}akyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4}acyl group, aryl, an arylC_{1-4}alkyl group, or CN;

s represents 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} independently represent H, a C_{1-10}alkyl group, aryl or an arylC_{1-4}alkyl group or when m is 0 and T represents a group $N(R^6)C(O)$ or a group $(R^5)NS(O_2)$ then R^1 and R^6 or R^1 and R^5 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent a heteroaryl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.